



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

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Press Release

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“ECONOMY IN CRISIS, 1974-75” EXHIBIT OPENS IN ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor, Mich... Today’s international economic and energy crisis had a prologue almost 35 years ago. **A new exhibit at the Gerald Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, *Economy in Crisis, 1974-75***, takes us to that tantalizingly familiar yet very different time.

When Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon on August 9, 1974, he inherited soaring inflation, growing unemployment, ballooning budget deficits, and a stockpile of gas ration coupons ready for emergency use. Ford’s political and policy challenges are retold through dozens of rarely seen documents and artifacts from the collections of the Library in Ann Arbor and the Ford Museum



President Ford inherited severe inflation, recession, budget, and energy problems. The chart he used in a televised nationwide address is part of a new Ford Presidential Library exhibit in Ann Arbor, “Economy in Crisis, 1974-75.”

in Grand Rapids. The exhibit is a collaboration between the Library and Museum staffs.

On display is a telegram with economic advice from an obscure Arkansas politician, Bill Clinton. There is the 1975 calendar from which President Ford ripped pages during a televised address, illustrating his impatience with Congressional inaction. Declassified records from an international summit and a letter from the Shah of Iran on nuclear power show the worldwide dimensions of the economic and energy tumult. On a lighter note, there is a selection of crayon drawings from Michigan school children with their advice on saving energy (“Drive Pogo Sticks!”), and a metal sculpture sent by a Minneapolis artist as encouragement.

The exhibit is free and will run through winter 2010. Visitors can also see biographical displays on President and Mrs. Ford, a display of gifts from foreign leaders, and Mr. Ford’s 1981-2006 office at the Library.

The Library is open 8:45 am to 4:45 pm, Monday-Friday, all year. It is closed Federal holidays. The Library is located at the corner of Beal Ave., Fuller Ave., and Glazier Way, opposite the VA Hospital. Admission and on-site parking are free. For general information call 734-205-0555 or visit us on the web at www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov. The Library is part of the presidential libraries system of the National Archives and Records Administration.